

galopyge differs from the Anthroceridæ and Pyromorphidæ only in the addition of the membranous pads to the ordinary feet. We have only to imagine the loss of the crochets and the extension of the pads till they touch each other, to give essentially the Eucleid structure.*

NOTE ON TWO HYDRÆCIA LARVÆ.

PLATE II, FIGS. 4-6.

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Mr. H. Bird has recently presented to the National Museum larvæ of *Hydræcia nitela* and *H. purpurifascia*. A remarkable difference is seen between them in the position of one tubercle on the seventh abdominal segment. The general rule in the Noctuidæ is to have tubercle iv on the seventh segment low down near tubercle v, and this position is seen in *H. nitela* (Plate II, Fig. 5). In *H. purpurifascia*, however, this tubercle has been moved upward to the upper corner of the spiracle as on the other segments (Plate II, Fig. 4). The *Hydræcia* larvæ are borers, and it is apparently requisite that such larvæ should protect the extremities and surround the spiracles by corneous shields. For this purpose all the tubercles are large and distinct, even the ordinarily obscure tubercle iiii is plainly seen before the spiracle (compare the otherwise generalized *Hypena humuli* (Plate II, Fig. 6), which does not show iiii). On most of the segments tubercle iv behind the spiracle, iii above it, iiii before and v below form sufficient protection; but on the seventh abdominal segment there is a lack of protection behind, apparently in a place where it is most needed. It would appear that the two *Hydræcia* larvæ before me have independently attempted to correct this defect, and owing to some inherent difference of organization, have used different means to this end. *H. purpurifascia* has moved tubercle iv bodily upward into the place of greatest efficiency. *H. nitela*, on the other hand, has developed an additional small tubercle at the upper corner of the spiracle, which bears no seta. This little shield varies in size in different larvæ, its character being still not firmly fixed in the species. It would be interesting to examine the other species of *Hydræcia* in this respect.

* It is to be noted that there are no feet on the anal segment in the Eucleidæ. The suckers are on the first eight abdominal segments, the first and last not so well developed as the others. These (*i. e.*, on abdominal segments I and 8) are in excess of those present in *Megalopyge*, but their less degree of development favors the view of their recent acquisition.